



Flights  
of Fantasy

Volume 1, No. 1

This Issue's Theme:  
Fantasy and Science  
Fiction

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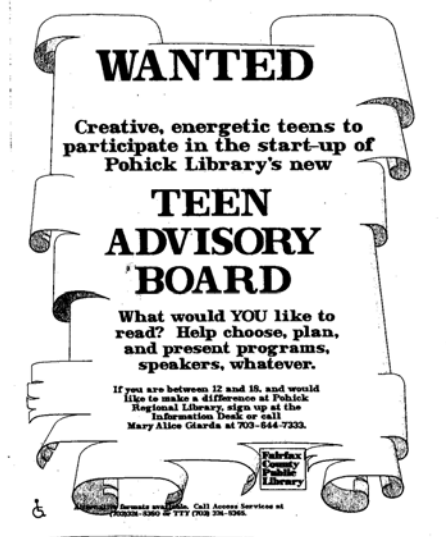


T.O.M.E. meets up with  
the author of *Star Wars*  
and asks a few questions...

Page 3: Great Fantasy  
Reads, a poem, book  
review.

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Search...

*Insert:  
Merlin Q &  
A  
and  
Fantasy*



*"I cannot live  
without books"*  
-Thomas Jefferson

COOL CLIPS  
YOUNG FILMMAKERS  
VIDEO CONTEST  
Open to all students in  
grades 7 - 12.



Pohick Library's Digital  
Video Production Workshop:  
Thursday, July 11, at 7:00pm.  
Call 703-644-7333 to sign up.

Workshop attendance not required to enter the  
contest. Check out the contest rules in the  
Library's Summer Calendar, on the Website  
([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/slp/coolclips.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/slp/coolclips.htm)), or  
pick up a flyer at the Library.

## Calling All Poet Laureates!

### Contest Rules

1. Poems should be no more than one page each. You may submit as many poems as you like.
2. Must be turned in by August 31, 2002 at the POHICK Library Information Desk.
3. Prizes will be awarded during Teen Read Week (October 13—19)
4. All winners' poems will be published in the T.O.M.E. Times.
5. It doesn't have to rhyme—free verse is fine with us!
6. Write your own stuff. We will not be impressed if you write like Emily Dickenson, only suspicious.
7. No bribing the judges!



## R.A. Salvatore

*The Author Sneaks*



*R.A. Salvatore is one of the most renowned contemporary Fantasy/ Sci-Fi writers of our day. Not only has he written 35 books, but has sold over 6 million copies in the United States alone. The Forgotten Realm series, The Dark Elf Trilogy, and the New York Times bestseller, Star Wars the New Jedi Order: Vector Prime, are just a few examples of his extensive success. He has worked closely with George Lucas on the highly anticipated Star Wars movie, "Episode II Attack of the Clones", and has even written the expanded story.*

*Obviously, this creative author's writings are hot on the market, so we decided to meet up with Salvatore to ask a few questions.*

**Q:** Who is your favorite author?

**A:** "Well, I have to say J.R.R. Tolkien." A winter blizzard provided the perfect opportunity to read *The Hobbit*. "There was no school for a week! So instead of being snowed in, I went to Middle Earth." "I get e-mails saying, 'You're better than Tolkien!' I say, 'You're out of your mind! No one is better than Tolkien! All I do is privately dedicated to Tolkien.'"

**Q:** How did you begin writing?

**A:** "I made a deal with my Mom that I could stay home from school if I read my Peanuts comics. I started writing my own Snoopy stories."

**Q:** What are some of the struggles you face as a writer?

**A:** From having no say in his book titles, to characters names being changed behind his back, Salvatore describes the frustrations felt when dealing with uncooperative publishers.

"Just at the end of *Haflings Gem* there is was a dwarf named Dag-Nab-It. They made me change it to Dagna."

There was also a green-haired dwarf named Pickel Bouldersoulder. "I said it was pronounced Pike-al, like the weapon. But no, he's a pickle!"

**Q:** How closely did you work with George Lucas on *Attack of the Clones*?

**A:** "I agreed to do the book in May, 2000. Then I went to Skywalker Ranch and got the script in Nov. I saw a slide-show of the beginning scenes and then I got to sit down with George Lucas for three or four hours. And I got to pick his brain. Once I knew what was going to happen on Tatooine, it became apparent to me immediately that we needed to know more about the people already there."

"Over the course of the year I would get e-mails from Lucas on Mondays, they all said the same thing: 'The new shooting script pages will be FedExed today. We can't wait to see your wonderful changes tomorrow!'" Salvatore smiles and adds, "Star Wars is George Lucas's playground. Everyone else just gets a license to play on it."

**Q:** What can we anticipate from you in the future?

**A:** "Fireworks TV bought the rights to do the Forgotten Realms... And then they asked me to create the series for them. They are all new characters. It will be a series that will feature the same cast from week to week. You may see Drisst, you may see some of the players of the realm." Fireworks may also do feature movies or a miniseries of the Dark Elf Trilogy. Keep your fingers crossed!

**Q:** What advice do you have for aspiring young writers?

**A:** Know your characters. Its like they are on your shoulder whispering into your ear, telling you what to say. He also encourages not to write fan-fiction. Be original!

Whether you're a Salvatore nut, Star Wars freak, or just love to read, pick up one of his books at your local library or bookstore. If you're a fantasy or sci-fi fanatic, his books are for you! ♦

**The Sorceress**  
by Claire Tuley

"Don't Go!" the sorceress cries  
As fire burns in her black eyes.  
The potion is not done  
I need the heart of someone who has won;  
Become the princess he has won from fortune's wheel  
That can go back down as quick as an eel  
His heart is what I need to live forever  
I must admit, my plans are clever  
His love will give me an extra life.  
The love he had for his future wife.  
But you must tarry not  
We don't want his love to "rot".

And so I went to Prince Charming and took the form  
Of the princess that wasn't to make him mourn  
And I wove a tale of love, a tale to me, truth to him  
A tale to the witch, the truth to the kingdom, truth to them.  
As the wedding came, I left and managed to take  
The heart of the prince that I had been sent to break.  
"What will you get for your work?"  
The sorceress says with a smirk.  
"I think death is the reward"  
For piercing this heart with an invisible sword  
For lost, lost is the tale weaver."

Good Fantasy Reads

*Artemis Fowl* Books 1 & 2.....Eoin Colfer  
*Narnia* Series.....C.S. Lewis  
*Harry Potter* Series.....J.K. Rowling  
*Merlin* Series.....T.A. Barron  
*Ella Enchanted* Series.....Gail Carson  
Levine  
*His Dark Materials* Trilogy...Philip Pullman  
*The Hobbit &*  
*Lord of the Rings* Trilogy...J.R.R. Tolkien  
*Just Ella*.....Margaret Peterson  
Haddix  
*a multitude of books by Bruce Coville*  
*Alanna* Series.....Tamora Pierce  
*Claidi Journals* Series.....Tanith Lee  
*The Savage Damsel*  
*And the Dwarf*.....Gerald Morris

**Alan Mendelsohn, Boy from Mars by Daniel Manus Pinkwater**

Review by Claire Tuley

THIS IS THE STORY of Leonard Neeble, a new student at Bat Masterson Junior High. He's fat, has no friends, and looks like a weirdo. No one talks to him. Even the other ostracized don't talk to him. But this was all before Alan Mendelsohn. Alan comes a few weeks after Leonard. He knows everything ( often bringing up weird facts in class), can trip people so quickly that they don't know how it happened, and he's from Mars. Leonard and Alan quickly become friends, and after Alan is suspended for causing a riot by claiming he was from Mars, they go into the city together. They find a shop that sells things on mind reading, other planes of existence. After many lessons from Samuel Klugarsh, they can go into State Twenty-six. They travel to Waka-Waka, and fight an evil monster, and save the Waka-Wakains.

All in all, it's a good read. Everyone can relate to Leonard, who narrates the story. He has an easy-going attitude, and has gone through things that a lot of people have experienced, whether being at a new school, being ignored, or having the best friend of your life, until your friend moves away. Pinkwater weaves the story in such a strange way that we look at it and say, "well, that makes sense!" He gives us theories on travelling to other planes of existence and what really happens to "lost cities" such as Atlantis. And he invents things like fleegix, the missile whistle, and the Mad Guru, so read the book and find out what those are. ♦

# Fantasy Word Search



W	O	N	I	H	M	C	M	B	N	V	O	O	D	S	D	L	P	R	Z
Z	I	A	R	E	O	A	S	A	N	X	Z	R	C	T	R	R	P	R	R
E	Q	Z	R	O	T	B	B	G	H	M	A	L	U	A	A	C	H	V	L
V	H	L	A	T	C	A	B	L	Z	C	O	K	K	R	G	K	N	Z	N
Z	I	H	I	R	K	I	J	I	T	K	J	D	W	W	O	S	B	E	R
N	S	M	P	Z	D	O	N	T	T	S	K	J	E	A	N	U	C	N	H
A	E	M	A	C	L	O	O	U	F	Y	R	E	C	R	O	S	I	C	V
O	R	H	O	L	Y	C	F	N	E	W	N	E	H	S	E	A	G	I	G
D	U	J	Q	N	S	V	I	O	X	Q	D	B	L	G	L	G	A	U	L
P	C	C	E	N	I	U	Y	K	Z	B	X	W	E	G	F	E	M	L	C
Q	O	I	O	S	P	E	L	L	S	R	N	G	A	O	G	P	M	U	L
Z	L	S	I	E	N	D	E	R	S	G	A	M	E	R	E	U	Z	T	G
A	R	T	R	O	L	L	Y	D	Z	T	I	H	R	F	F	G	M	L	O
O	Q	B	E	D	Y	I	D	C	R	S	L	A	M	O	C	V	J	I	T
C	A	F	Z	Z	P	Y	O	D	S	C	Y	A	O	I	B	J	L	C	Q



ALIEN	ENDERSGAME	MERLIN	SPELLS
AZKABAN	HENWEN	MUGGLE	STARWARS
DRAGON	HOBBIT	ORSONSCOTTCARD	TROLL
DWARF	MAGIC	PEGASUS	UNICORN
ELF	MATTIMEO	SORCERY	WIZARDOFOZ



## Artwork

Cover art (pegasus) by Christine Beisel  
This page (dragon, top-right) by Christine Beisel



INSERT, Side 1

## The Wings of Merlin Q & A

By Jonathan Cross

*1. Why did all of the Fincayrans lose their wings?*

A: The Fincayrans lost their wings because they bickered among one another and the humans started to use all of the other races as their slaves. The humans became evil and tortured the other races and made up their own idols and gods. This is why Dawdga took away their wings.

*2. How did Merlin, his mother, and all the children get to the Forgotten Island?*

A: Merlin, his mother, and all of the children got to the Forgotten Island by using Shim's hat. His hat was so large that they were all able to fit inside it and use it as a boat to go to the Forgotten Island.

*3. Who is the infamous Sword Arms, and why does he want to kill Merlin?*

A: Sword Arms is Dinatius, who hates Merlin and his mother very much. Dinatius was a bully who picked on Merlin, and before Merlin left for Fincayra, he burned Dinatius so badly that he almost died. Then Dinatius made a pact with the evil god Rhita Gawr to restore his burned arms, but Dinatius would spend eternity serving Rhita Gawr. He also had to kill Merlin and his mother. This is why he hates them both so much.

*4. Why does Merlin choose to leave Fincayra and go to England and help the future King Arthur and not stay with his wife?*

A: Merlin knows that the world is dependent upon him going to England and serving Arthur. He knows that it is his destiny to leave. Even though he does not want to leave Fincayra, and all his friends, and his wife Hallia, he knows that he must go. ♦

## Fantasy Quiz

by Ariane Lee Irvine

*From Ella Enchanted*

What is Ella's curse?

*From the Immortal series*

What happened to Diane's mother?

*From Artemis Fowl*

Who was the LEPrechauns officer kidnapped by Artemis?

*From Ordinary Princess*

What happened to Amethyst that made her ordinary?

*From Daughters of the Moon series*

What are the daughters of the moons' powers?

*From Greater than Angels*

Why do the children go to the mountains?

Have you been keeping up with your  
reading? Answers on back!

## QUIZ ANSWERS

Ella's curse was Obedience. Ella Enchanted

Diane's mother was killed by robbers. Immortals Series

The LEPrechaun officer that Artemis kidnapped was Captain Holly Short. Artemis Fowl

A fairy's gift turned Amethyst ordinary. Ordinary Princess

The Red Cross sponsored the kids to leave the mountains. Greater Than Angels

